

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF CT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Dear Members of the Connecticut Human Services Committee:

Good afternoon, my name is Catalina Rubí Gonzalez Ortiz, I am from Guatemala, and I have lived in Hartford for 10 years. I am a member of the Hartford Deportation Defense

I am in favor of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.

I have 3 sons. One is 2 years old, one is 9 years old and my oldest daughter is 12 years old and she is the only one who was not born in this country. When I take her for her physical exam, I have to pay out of pocket. We went into debt for being unable to pay the bill when it was due. I had to stop working after having my baby after being confined to bed rest. The problem is that when you don't pay, the debt goes up. A bill that, at the beginning was \$20, they are already charging us \$400.

In my case, after having the baby, they found a cyst. Because I don't have insurance, they haven't offered me a treatment or operation for removal. I have been told that we should wait to see if she gets worse or if it just goes away. I think they tell me that because I don't have insurance. They put us aside and give priority to people who do have insurance. Just for the checkups, I received a \$2,000 bill.

We ask you to support the bill SB 284 A LAW TO INCREASE THE AGE FROM 8 TO 18 YEARS FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN REGARDLESS OF THEIR IMMIGRATION STATUS so that our children can have access to HUSKY and because it is also an important step so that all immigrants in Connecticut can have health insurance.

Thanks for your time,

Catalina Rubi Gonzalez Ortiz